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Quietly to a Task

A Pennsylvanian is among four distinguished American citizens who have accepted the assignment—one of the most important of our time to all of the peoples of the world—of making a new study on the problems of disarmament and atomic energy control.

The Pennsylvanian is John S. Dickey, of Lock Haven, who brings to the group the outstanding value of his long experience in law, diplomacy, education and government administration.

The others, equally competent, are:

Dr. Vannevar Bush and Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, scientists of the first rank. Dr. Bush is renowned as one of the experts on science as applied to the weapons of modern warfare and is otherwise greatly distinguished in the fields of science and education. Dr. Oppenheimer stands among the topmost physicists who developed the principles on which the atomic bomb and the hydrogen bomb are based.

Allen W. Dulles, who from his experience with the Central Intelligence Agency, brings to the group a thorough knowledge of the diverse factors in international relationships and power pressures against which studies of disarmament must be viewed.

Mention has been made by Washington columnists of disappointment that the mission assigned to this eminent quartet has not been more prominently publicized. Those who seek the answer as to why a task of such great magnitude has been taken up in such relative quiet venture the opinion that Washington news writers have adopted a case-hardened attitude toward developments which give no immediate promise of growing into sensations.

We are not inclined to concur in that view. And we are grateful that a mission of such great magnitude has been launched—and is progressing—in the respectful silence which is its due.

The capital reporters have the good common sense of the average American for whom they gather the news. They appreciate that the big news will come when the new commission has progressed with the studies to the point where recommendations, capable of worthy implementation, may be made.

The world knows that we are well-intentioned as a nation. All peoples of the earth—even the Communists—say they want atomic control, disarmament and peace. If such a desire is truly universal in the hearts of all men, the study and evaluation of all the factors concerned by these four prominent men may be most effective in bringing humanity back from the edge of the precipice of all-out disaster upon which it has been teetering too